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with their nature study and geography. Provision is made for a mushroom cellar, for the display of both edible and poisonous species; and there are four cases for liverworts, mosses and filmy ferns. One range of greenhouses is devoted to the elementary instruction of children, and the classes for the preparation of gardeners and garden teachers. One plant house is devoted to investigation.

The north end of the laboratory building, and a portion of the south end, are planned primarily for the accommodation of research. In this work special emphasis will be laid on the experimental phases of botany, including physiology, genetics and pathology. There are eight private research rooms, four general laboratories, a sterilizing and culture room, two class rooms, herbarium, library, experimental dark room, photographer's suite, a children's room, and a lecture hall seating five hundred and seventy. Offices of administration occupy a portion of the main floor.

The scientific staff at present numbers eight, of curatorial rank, with one resident investigator and one research fellow. The garden publications include an administrative quarterly (the *Record*), *Contributions*, a series of popular *Leaflets*, *Seed List* (annual), and the *American Journal of Botany*. The latter is published in cooperation with the Botanical Society of America. The first number of a series of scientific Memoirs is now being edited for publication.

In the way of serving the local community it may be mentioned that according to the *Sixth Annual Report* of the garden, over 14,000 children and adults attended regular garden classes, in addition to over 8,500 pupils from local schools who visited the garden with their teachers under the guidance of a garden docent, and also in addition to nearly 6,500 who attended public lectures.

As an illustration of one kind of service that botany can render in the stress of war, attention may be called to the fact that a large portion of the Botanic Garden grounds have, this year, been temporarily devoted to war gardens. Over 400 individuals are now cultivating these gardens, the individual plots varying in size from 8 × 10 feet to 20 × 40 feet. The garden has also assumed responsibility for starting and inspecting, during the growing season, over one hundred vacant lot gardens in Brooklyn, varying in size from a city lot to several acres. The entire time of one gardener, so far as needed, has been devoted to this work, and thousands of copies of popular pamphlets have been distributed on various phases of gardening, garden pests, preserving the surplus crops, and other related topics.

In short, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has sought at every point to do two things: (1) to be directly useful to the community that supports and fosters it; (2) to advance and diffuse a knowledge and love of plants. Experience has shown that each of these lines of activity reacts favorably upon the other. The extension of the scientific work is contingent only upon an adequate endowment for that purpose, for, while the city largely (but not wholly) meets the annual cost of maintenance, the garden is chiefly dependent upon private funds for investigation and publication.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

We record with regret the death of Adolf von Baeyer, professor of chemistry at Munich, distinguished for his work on synthetic indigo and in other directions, and of Eduard Buchner, professor of chemistry at

Würzburg, who died from wounds while serving as major at the front. Dr. Buchner was distinguished for his work on the chemistry of fermentation, and was the recipient of the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1907.

A NEW pedestal for the bust of John Muir has been made at the University of Wisconsin to be placed in the Building for Biology, where the bust of Muir was recently unveiled. The pedestal bears the inscription:

JOHN MUIR, 1838–1913
AUTHOR, EXPLORER, NATURALIST
A PRIEST AT NATURE'S SHRINE.

THE President has ruled that medical students and hospital internes who are drafted may be discharged from the national army to enlist in the Reserve Corps of the Medical Department and will be permitted to complete their medical course. By order of the surgeon-general the following letter has been written to the editor of this journal: "In reply to your communication of August 15 requesting information relating to drafted men who possess scientific training, I beg to advise you that the Sanitary Corps of the United States Army, attached to the Medical Department, will accept a number of selected men who are not physicians, but who have attained professional standing in bacteriology, chemistry and the several branches of engineering pertaining to sanitation. The Corps was organized specially to secure the services of skilled sanitarians having experience in both practical field work as well as those specially qualified in the several scientific branches having a correlation to the sanitary sciences."

THE Nitrate Supply Committee, appointed by the Secretary of War, has recommended that contingent upon satisfactory arrangements with the General Chemical Company, out of the $20,000,000 nitrate supply appropriation such sum as may be needed, now estimated at $3,000,000, be placed at the disposal of the War Department to be used in building a synthetic ammonia plant, employing the said process of the General Chemical Company, and of a capacity of 60,000 pounds of ammonia per twenty-four-hour day, said plant to be located in a region where land, water, coal and sulphuric acid are cheaply available, where good transportation facilities exist, and where the proposed new powder plant of the government can be properly located. In the opinion of this committee all of these conditions are best fulfilled by a location in southwest Virginia or contiguous region.